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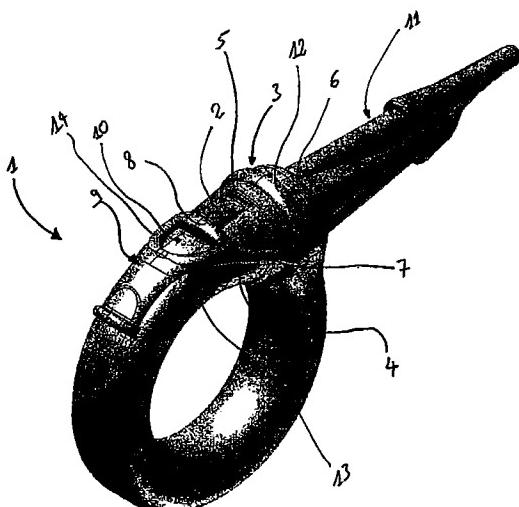
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(54) Title: CLOSURE SYSTEM FOR TUBULAR ORGANS



(57) Abstract: Surgically implantable adjustable ring (1) comprising a first (3) and second (4) end parts and which is designed to be closed around a tubular organ towards its two end parts (3,4) by a closure system (2,5) to adjust the diameter of said tubular organ by forming a loop, the first end part (3) forming a sleeve having a first (6) and second (7) open end parts and which is designed to receive the ring second end part (4), the sleeve main axis being defined along a direction which is substantially perpendicular to the main direction of the ring first end part (3), the ring second part (4) furthermore comprising a locking protrusion (2) adapted to hold the sleeve (3) and thereby secure the ring in a closed position, characterized by the fact that the sleeve (3) comprises a hole (5) designed to receive said locking protrusion (2).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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Closure system for tubular organs

Field of the invention

- The present invention relates to surgical devices for adjusting the diameter of
10 tubular organs such as the esophagus, the stomach, the colon or the urethra.
Such devices may be used as sphincters (e.g. anal or urinary sphincter) or for the
control of obesity.
It more precisely relates to surgically implantable adjustable rings for encircling
said tubular organs.

15

State of the art

- Surgical devices for adjusting the diameter of tubular organs are disclosed in
patent documents US 5 658 298, US 5 601 604, FR 2 823 663, WO 01/85071 and
WO 03/059215.
20 The device disclosed in WO 03/059215 has a ring shape which comprises a first
and second end parts and which is designed to be closed around a tubular organ
towards its two end parts by a closure system to adjust the diameter of said
tubular organ by forming a loop, the first end part forming a sleeve having a first
and second open end parts and which is designed to receive the ring second end
25 part, the sleeve main axis being defined along a direction which is substantially
perpendicular to the main direction of the ring first end part, the ring second part
furthermore comprising a locking protrusion adapted to hold the border of the
sleeve second end part and thereby to secure the ring in a closed position.

30

Summary of the invention

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved closure system for the
previous cited prior art devices.

This and other objects are achieved with the device as defined in claim 1.

35

An embodiment of the invention will be discussed in a more detailed way here
below together with figures 1 and 2.

5 The adjustable ring 1 comprises a first 3 and a second 4 end parts.

Any suitable material can be used with the ring 1, e.g. a biocompatible elastomeric material. The external part of the ring 1 can be more rigid than the internal part, this later one having an internal diameter which can be adjusted.

The first end part 3 forms a sleeve which is designed to receive the second end
10 part 4.

The second end part 4 has an extension 11 which contains adjusting means, for instance a wire which can be pulled or pushed in order to adjust the ring 1 diameter.

The sleeve 3 has a first end part 6 which is reinforced by a flange 12 and a
15 second end part 7 which contains a hole 5 designed to receive and efficiently retain a protrusion 2 which is fixed to the ring second end part 4.

For closing or opening the ring 1 the sleeve second end part 7 is provided with an extension forming a flexible tab 9.

The tab 9 contains a hole 10 situated close to the sleeve hole 5. The presence of
20 the hole 10 in the tab 9 provides several advantages, in particular by preventing the accidental opening of the closure system when the tab 9 has to support forces which tend to fold the tab 9 in the direction of the extension 11. The forces may be due to the movement of the patient or the organs of the patient or to the fluid or bolus passing through the tubular organ. The zone between both holes 5,10 is
25 reinforced by a flange 8. The other sides of the tab hole 10 are also reinforced by flanges 13,14.

The protrusion 2 shape is designed to closely match the flange 8 shape.

The invention is of course not limited to the above cited example.

30 For instance, the hole 10 can be replaced by a portion being more flexible than the remaining part of the tab 9.

Such a more flexible portion can be obtained by different ways, for example in making the portion thinner than the tab.

35 The invention can be used for different uses, for instance as a sphincter or as a gastric ring.

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Claims

1. Surgically implantable adjustable ring (1) comprising a first (3) and second (4) end parts and which is designed to be closed around a tubular organ towards its two end parts (3,4) by a closure system (2,5) to adjust the diameter of said tubular organ by forming a loop, the first end part (3) forming a sleeve having a first (6) and second (7) open end parts and which is designed to receive the ring second end part (4), the sleeve main axis being defined along a direction which is substantially perpendicular to the main direction of the ring first end part (3), the ring second part (4) furthermore comprising a locking protrusion (2) adapted to hold the sleeve (3) and thereby secure the ring in a closed position, characterized by the fact that the sleeve (3) comprises a hole (5) designed to receive said locking protrusion (2).
2. Adjustable ring according to claim 1 wherein the sleeve second end part (7) contains said hole (5) and partially covers the ring second end part (4).
3. Adjustable ring according to claim 2 comprising a reinforcement (8), for instance a flange, situated on at least the hole side which is in close contact with the protrusion (2) when the ring (1) is closed.
4. Adjustable ring according to anyone of the previous claims comprising a tab (9) extending from the sleeve second end part (7).
5. Adjustable ring according to claim 4 wherein the tab (9) comprises a flexible portion, being more flexible than the remaining part of the tab, which is situated close to said sleeve hole (5), in such a way as to prevent an accidental opening of the closure system.
6. Adjustable ring according to claim 5 wherein said flexible portion comprises a hole (10).

FIG. 1

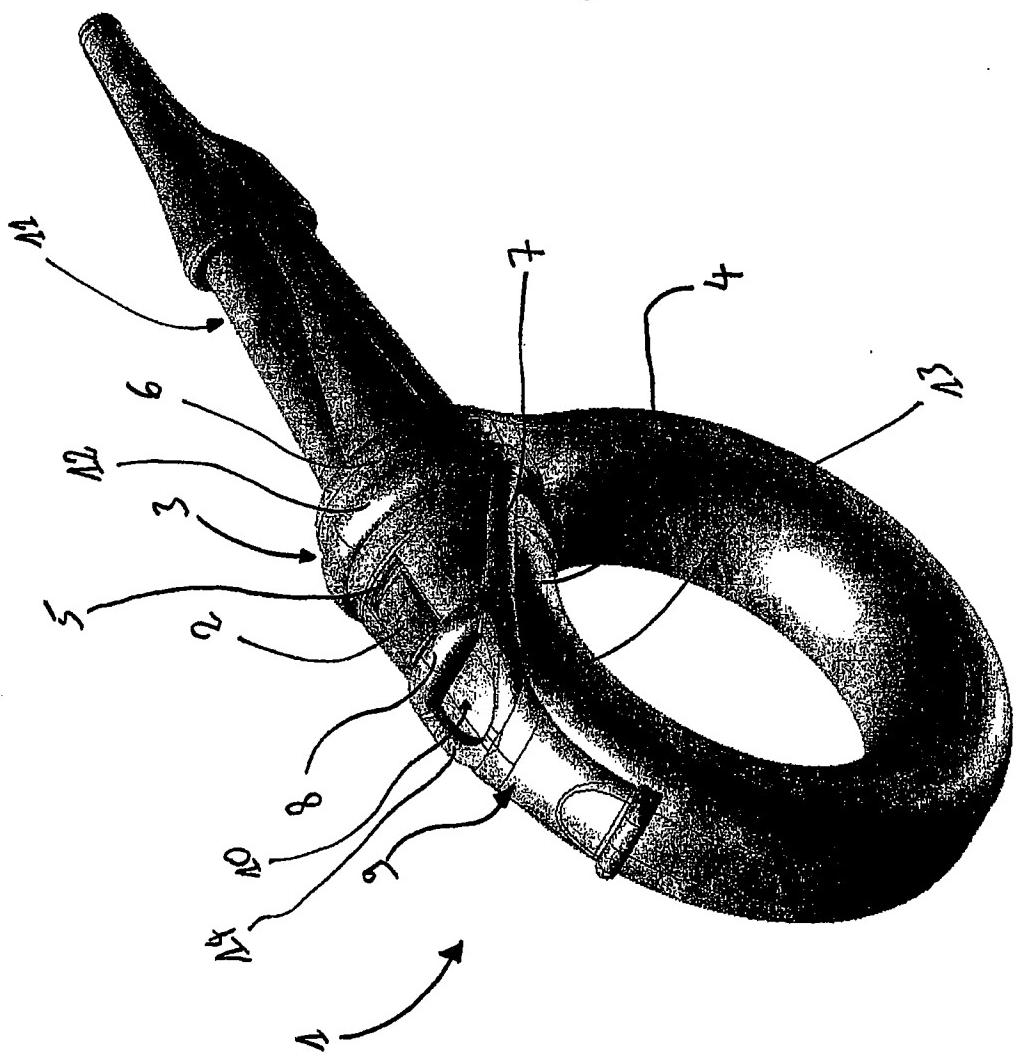
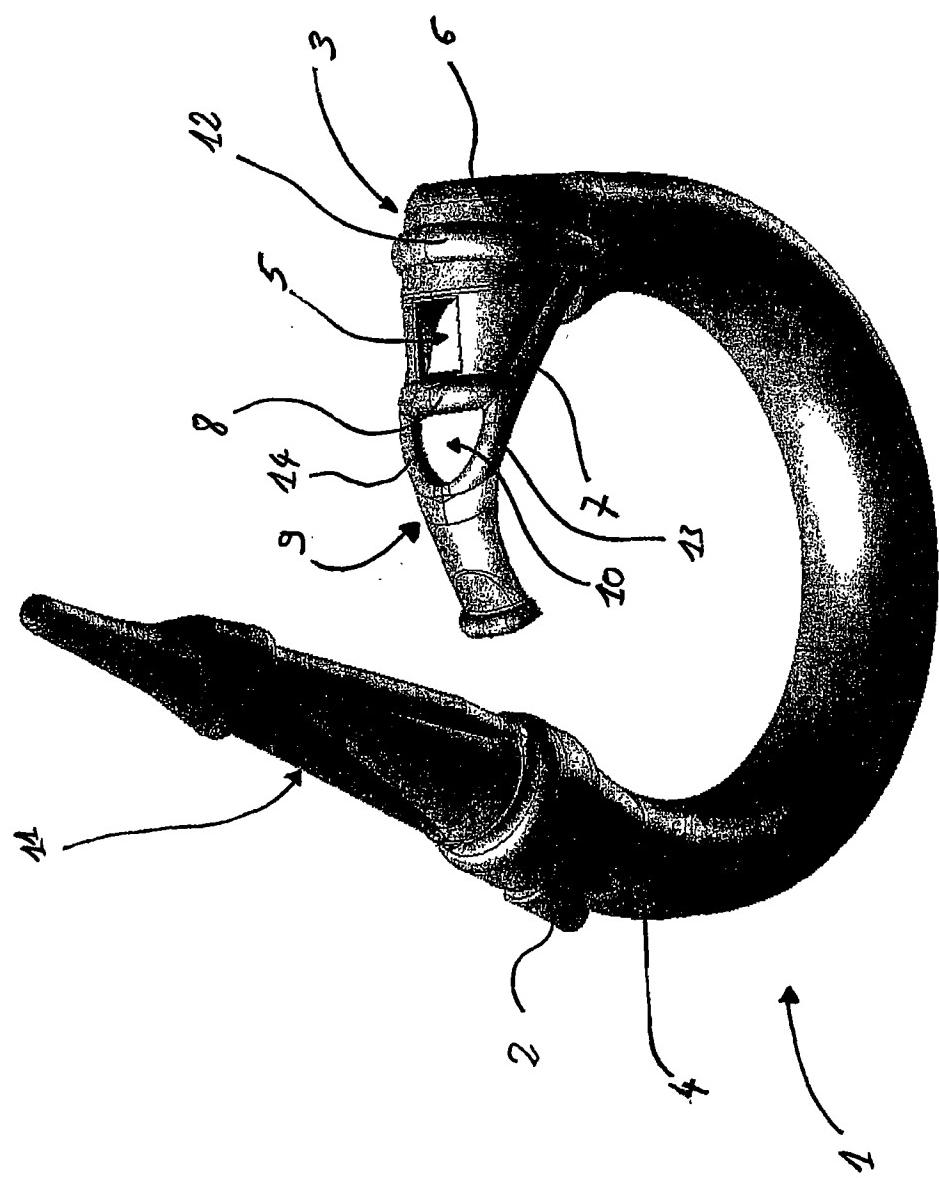


FIG. 2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61F5/00 B29C45/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F B29C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 02/096326 A (SURGICAL DIFFUSION; MOUTON, DIDIER; I.O.C) 5 December 2002 (2002-12-05) page 7, line 5 - page 8, line 24 figures 2-4 -----	1

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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